Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by the State Governments.

Changes in Banking Rules

2590. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of 29th July, 1993 captioned "Racket in Refund Orders";

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what is the total amount of losses incurred by the banks due to this racket; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring changes in banking rules to curb such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

UBI instructions for not accepting short term deposits from RRB

2591. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Bank of India has instructed its branches not to take any short term deposits from Regional Rural Banks in excess of their respective balances in current account; if so, whether this has been done with Government's approval;

(b) whether the RRBs will be subjected to loss if they are prevented from deploying their surplus funds in short term deposits instead of keeping them in current account with sponsoring banks; if so, what will be the amount of loss for each one lakh of rupees; and

(c) what is the cost of deposit of RRBs sponsored by the United Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b) United Bank of India (UBI) has reported that no such instructions have been issued to the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) sponsored by it. However, in respect of surplus funds of their RRBs in excess of funds maintained with UBI in current account, certain restrictions on acceptance of any further funds from the RRBs have been placed by the UBI on its branches. No approval of Government is necessary on such matters. The UBI has reported that restrictions have been prescribed so that the RRBs may lend their funds more for approved purposes instead of diverting their funds for deposits. RRBs earn 7.5 per cent per annum on funds kept in current deposits with UBI as against the interest of 13.5 per cent per annum earned against balances kept in short term deposit accounts for 15 days and above.

(c) The cost of deposits of RRBs sponsored by the UBI is 5.69 per cent.

Harassment of SC/ST officers in Gurgaon Gramin Bank

2592. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received direct or through RBI or NABARD any complaints that the SC/ST staff of Gurgaon Gramin Bank (Haryana) Officers and non-officers are being harassed in the matter of transfers and postings and are being ill-treated;

(b) whether any enquiry has been undertaken in this regard and what is the outcome; and

(c) what steps have been taken for redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) In July, 1992, a complaint was received by Government regarding harassment of a Field Officer of Gurgaon Gramin Bank belonging to Scheduled Caste. This matter was enquired in to by the Sponsor Bank. The enquiry of the Sponsor Bank did not reveal any instance of harassment or bias on the basis of caste. Sponsor Bank has reported that it received another complaint from some SC/ST employees of the Bank alleging harassment and discrimination to them in the matter of transfers and postings. The Sponsor Bank has reported after inquiry that no discriminatory attitude was shown to the employees in such matters.

NABARD enquiry into complaints against Gurgaon Gramin Bank

2593. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of complaints of corruption against the present Chairman and General Manager of Gurgaon Gramin Bank (Haryana) including a payment of Rs. 50,000 to the Chairman through the account of a client of TAURU Branch where benami deposits of about rupees 50 lakhs were routed through at the behest of the Chairman; and

(b) whether any enquiry was conducted in this regard by NABARD; if so; what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Complaints were received against the then Chairman of Gurgaon Gramin Bank (Haryana) including certain transactions at Tauru branch and the matter was enquired into by the Sponsor Bank and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Now the matter has been referred to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a fresh inquiry. The Chairman referred to above of the Gurgaon Gramin Bank has since been reverted to its Sponsor Bank.

Furniture purchased by settlement Commissioner

2594. PROF. I. G. SANADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the items of furniture purchased by Settlement Commission (IT&WT), Department of Revenue, Lok Nayak Bhavan, New Delhi after issue of instructions wherein Department of Revenue, imposed restrictions to purchase furniture during 1992-93;

(b) what are the reasons that Secretary of the said Commission sought special permission of Department of Revenue under the title "furniture items were required for use in office" whereas the furniture items were directly delivered at the residence of Chairman of the Commission;

(c) what action Government propost to take against such officials of the Commission who are responsible for obtaining special permission for making such purchases on false grounds; and

(d) what were the circumstances in which an additional item of furniture was also accepted from supplier for which neither any demand was made nor the bill has been paid by the Commission to the supplier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) During the